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State of Misconsin 2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2085/1 RAC:amn&emw

2017 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 4

February 8, 2017 - Introduced by Representative Kessler. Referred to Committee on Assembly Organization.

Relating to: prohibiting the Committee on Assembly Organization from entering into contracts for private legal services and authorizing the expenditure of public funds for private legal services related to legislative redistricting.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The resolution prohibits the Committee on Assembly Organization from entering into any contract for private legal services or authorizing the expenditure of public funds to pay for private legal services related to legislative redistricting.

Whereas, on November 21, 2016, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin ruled in *Whitford v. Gill* that Wisconsin's Assembly Districts enacted by 2011 Act 43 are unconstitutional due to partisan political gerrymandering; and

Whereas, on January 27, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin unanimously ordered the state to redraw legislative maps by November 1, 2017; and

Whereas, on February 2, 2017, the Committee on Assembly Organization voted
5-3 via paper ballot to authorize the hiring of Kirkland & Ellis LLP and Bell Giftos
St. John LLC and any other firms, entities, or counsel deemed necessary for services
related to the matter of Whitford v. Gill and legislative redistricting and all ancillary
matters; and
Whereas, the February 2, 2017, authorization contained no cap on costs or
payment disclosure requirements; and
Whereas, taxpayers of the state of Wisconsin have already paid \$2,100,000 in
legal costs incurred from 2011 to 2013 related to the development and defense of the
unconstitutional 2011 Act 43 maps; and
Whereas, taxpayers are already paying legal costs incurred by the Wisconsin
Department of Justice as it appeals the unconstitutional maps to the Supreme Court
of the United States; and
Whereas, blank checks issued by the legislature to pay legal fees are not in the
public interest of being good stewards of taxpayer dollars; now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the assembly, That the Committee on Assembly Organization
may not enter into any contract for private legal services or authorize the
expenditure of public funds to pay for private legal services related to legislative
redistricting.

(END)